

Remarks at a Meeting With Doug Luffborough and an Exchange With Reporters July 1, 1993

The President. Hello, everybody. Those of you who travel with me regularly will, I think, recognize the young man on my right, Mr. Doug Luffborough. He was the student speaker at Northeastern University in Boston the other day. This is his mother, whom I introduced from the audience; got a big hand. He's here with President John Curry of Northeastern and Senator John Kerry, his Senator. I invited him and his mother to come visit me in the Oval Office, so they didn't wait long to take me up on the invitation. [Laughter] I'm glad to see them here today.

You may remember also that he brought the house down. He not only gave a great speech, but he sang at the beginning of his speech. I thought to myself, if I could sing like that I wouldn't be giving speeches today. [Laughter]

Mr. Luffborough. Well, it was a wonderful opportunity for me and a wonderful opportunity for my family and especially for my mother. I've been waiting for an opportunity like this, and I'm just really thrilled. And I'm really glad that Northeastern was the place you decided to come. It's been a pleasure and an honor to be here today. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, what was it about Doug that impressed you so much?

The President. First of all, that he had come from such humble circumstances to go to college and to stay in college and that he had made the most of it. He obviously never felt sorry for himself. He obviously had a mother who helped him to believe in himself, as many

others do. And the fact that his fellow students picked him to be the spokesperson for their class showed that they identified with the values and the inner strength and drive that took him to the success that he enjoys. I was very impressed. And I just thought it would be neat if they could come down here and see me.

Vietnam

Q. Sir, what signal do you hope to send by lifting U.S. opposition to international loans to Vietnam?

The President. I haven't made an announcement on that. When I do, I'll be glad to discuss it.

Iraq

Q. Mr. President, Tariq Aziz seems this afternoon to be holding out some type of an olive branch, saying that Iraq will not avenge the attack the other day and also that he hopes for better relations with your administration. What response do you have, if any?

The President. I don't know. I need to be briefed on what he said. But of course, they shouldn't act in revenge. We have evidence that what was done was wrong, and the United States had to respond.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Somalia July 1, 1993

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my letter to you of June 10, 1993, regarding the deployment of U.S. Armed Forces to Somalia, I reported on the deplorable June 5 attacks on United Nations Operation in Somalia forces (UNOSOM II) instigated by one of Somalia's factional leaders. I also reported to you

that on June 6, 1993, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 837, which strongly condemned the unprovoked June 5 attacks that left 23 Pakistani peacekeepers dead. In addition, the Security Council reemphasized the crucial importance of the disarmament of all Somali parties, and reaffirmed the Secretary General's au-

thority under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter “to take all necessary measures against those responsible for the armed attacks [of June 5], including against those responsible for publicly inciting such attacks, to establish the effective authority of UNOSOM II throughout Somalia, including to secure the investigation of their actions and their arrest and detention for prosecution, trial and punishment.”

Since that time, the United Nations has acted resolutely to restore order in Mogadishu and to protect U.N. forces. These actions have ensured that the world community’s crucial humanitarian efforts in Somalia and the national reconciliation process in that country will continue to move forward. In view of these developments (in particular the role of U.S. Armed Forces in the recent U.N.-led activities in Somalia), and because of my desire that the Congress be kept fully informed regarding significant deployments of U.S. Armed Forces, I am providing this supplement to my earlier report.

In planning appropriate measures to respond to the violence and to implement the Security Council’s mandate, the United Nations was able to draw upon the superb capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces that remained in Somalia following the transition to UNOSOM II. In addition to the logistics and other support personnel assigned to UNOSOM II, the Quick Reaction Forces (QRF)—under U.S. operational control—was available to assist UNOSOM II during emergencies. At the height of the U.S.-led Unified Task Force (UNITAF) operations, just over 25,000 U.S. Armed Forces personnel were deployed to Somalia. Consistent with U.S. policy objectives, the current smaller U.S. contribution of approximately 4,400 personnel reflects the increased participation by other U.N. Member States.

United States Armed Forces played an extremely important role in the successful efforts of UNOSOM II to restore stability to the area and to enable U.N. humanitarian operations in Somalia to proceed. First, after determining that the leadership of one of Somalia’s factions had planned and incited the June 5 attacks on U.N. peacekeepers, UNOSOM II initiated air and ground military operations in the early morning hours of June 12. Primary targets included weapons and ordnance caches and a radio facility that had been used to foment violence towards U.N. forces and opposition to implementation of the Security Council’s humanitarian

mandate in Somalia. United States fixed-wing and helicopter aircraft operating as part of the QRF, in support of UNOSOM II, destroyed or disabled those targets in a well-planned effort consistent with the Security Council’s disarmament objectives and the mandate to restore security. United States forces sustained no casualties.

On June 17, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, acting pursuant to Security Council Resolution 837, ordered the arrest of General Mohammed Farah Aideded for alleged criminal acts against UNOSOM II peacekeeping forces on June 5. In addition, UNOSOM II forces conducted further coordinated ground and air operations designed to search, clear, and disarm the factional stronghold of General Aideded in south Mogadishu that posed a continuing threat to U.N. operations. Ground and aerial broadcasts warned civilians to leave the area. Targets included weapons and ammunition caches, command and control facilities, and defensive positions. Once again, the U.S. QRF, in support of UNOSOM II, conducted air attacks, followed by search and clearing operations on the ground by non-U.S. UNOSOM II military personnel. Only one U.S. military member sustained minor injury, although there were several deaths and a number of injuries among UNOSOM II forces from other nations due to resistance by militia units and sniper fire. Although Aideded has not yet been arrested, the June 17 operation accomplished the objective of securing Aideded’s compound and neutralizing military capabilities that had posed a major obstacle to U.N. efforts to deliver humanitarian relief, facilitate political reconciliation, and promote national reconstruction.

We now see renewed opportunity for UNOSOM II to move forward steadily towards fulfillment of the humanitarian mandate of the Security Council that is shared by the world community. By countering the lawless, unprovoked violence against U.N. peacekeepers, the United Nations has gone far towards preserving the credibility and security of peacekeeping forces in Somalia and throughout the world. United States forces remain on guard along with those of our U.N. partners to counter any threats to the important U.N. mission in Somalia, should they arise.

As before, I remain committed to ensuring that the Congress is kept fully informed on U.S.

peacekeeping contributions and the use of U.S. Armed Forces for these vital purposes. I look forward to continuing discussions and close cooperation with you on these and related issues. Sincerely,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Statement on Germany's Reduction of Interest Rates *July 1, 1993*

Today's news that Germany has cut interest rates again is welcome news. With over 22 million people out of work in Europe, and our economy at last beginning to create jobs again, Germany's responsible fiscal and monetary actions could not have come at a more critical time for both Europe and the United States. It is also another sign that when America takes the lead in cutting its deficit and getting interest rates down we encourage other major nations to follow our lead in spurring global growth. By getting our house in order, we have facili-

tated pro-growth policies in Europe that mean more demand for American products overseas and more jobs and higher incomes for the Americans who make those products here at home.

Germany has taken an important step toward improved growth, and I look forward to further progress at the G-7 summit in Tokyo.

NOTE: Background information on European interest rates was attached to the statement.

Nomination for the Agency for International Development *July 1, 1993*

The President announced today that he intends to nominate Carol Lancaster to be the Deputy Administrator of the Agency for International Development, U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency.

"An expert in U.S. foreign aid policies, particularly with respect to Africa, Carol Lancaster

will bring a great deal to the management of AID," said the President. "I am grateful for her service."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Assistant Secretaries of the Navy *July 1, 1993*

The President announced his choices for two top Navy posts today. He intends to nominate Frederick F.Y. Pang to be Assistant Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and Nora Slatkin to be Assistant Secretary for Acquisition.

"I am very glad to be adding these two people to my Navy team today," said the President.

"They bring with them lifetimes of dedicated service to their country and years of experience in shaping policies to keep our military the best in the world."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.